



DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

News Release

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GOVERNOR

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THIRD UXO FOUND, DISPOSED OF AT HAPUNA BEACH STATE PARK

HAPUNA BEACH STATE PARK, HAWAII -- Unexploded ordnance technicians scanning Hapuna Beach State Recreation Area on the west coast of the island of Hawaii for unexploded ordnance under contract to the Department of Land and Natural Resources today found a live Japanese hand grenade in the same area where a Japanese 57mm mortar was found on September 15, north of the cabin area and Southeast of Hapuna Prince Hotel.

The grenade was found on the ground and in the open. Workers moved it to the vicinity of where the Japanese mortar was detonated last week. It was safely detonated today at 1:41 p.m. No evacuation or park closure required since the closest public access is a road that is approximately 200 yards away. A live hand grenade was the first object to be found, on Sept. 8 in the park and safely detonated in place.

County Fire, Police, Civil Defense, and state DLNR officers were notified in advance. Signs are posted in the park to warn the public that workers are present and scanning for presence of unexploded World War II-era ordnance and that areas may be evacuated, as needed, for public safety.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, on behalf of the Department of Land and Natural Resources is conducting surface and subsurface scanning in Hapuna Beach State Recreation Area to locate possible unexploded ordnance, most likely left over from World War II era military activity.

Scanning will take place through all of Hapuna Beach State Park past Waialea to Puako Road. The Waialea section will be done from November to December this year. The entire phase of this project will not be completed until mid-January 2012.

The Corps of Engineers and DLNR are committed to public and worker safety and encourage communities to educate children about ordnance hazards including proper procedures to follow if they find a suspected ordnance item. We would like everyone to remember the 3Rs of ordnance safety:

Recognize - Recognize what an unexploded ordnance might look like. It may be rusted and deteriorated and not look like what one might think ordnance would look like.

Retreat - Leave the area immediately. Go back the way you came. Do not attempt to determine if the object is an ordnance or not. Warn others in the vicinity.

Report - Call 911. Notify local law enforcement officials of what you saw and where you saw it.

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For more information news media may contact:

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